

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**Listing of Claims:**

1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand on a said underground mining machine, said mining machine including which includes at least one apparatus thereon which will utilize a plurality of interchangeable items, said machine having a surface adjacent to said apparatus, said surface having an aperture therein with a width, said stand comprising:

a base adapted to stand on a said surface of said machine adjacent to said apparatus, ~~said surface having an aperture therein with a width,~~

an upstanding rack mounted to said base, the rack being shaped and configured to hold and/or support said items; and

securing means for releasably securing said base to said surface;

said securing means comprising a plurality of clamps which incorporate a hook formation wider than said surface aperture width, said hook formation being able to pass through ~~a~~ said aperture in said surface of said machine and hook beneath said surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface.

5. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 4, wherein said upstanding rack comprises a frame having one or more arms projecting laterally there from to at least one side thereof.

6. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 5, wherein said items in use can be held in position by said arms.

7. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 6, wherein there are at least a pair of arms aligned generally side by side with each other and defining a space there between in which said items can be located.

8. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 4, being adapted to be coupled back to back with another stand to provide for double storage capacity.

9. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 4, being adapted to be coupled back to back to provide access from at least two sides.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) An underground mining machine and an equipment support stand as claimed in claim 4, including one or more pegs projecting upwardly at an inclined angle to the horizontal, said pegs adapted to support annular items or items having holes or bores there through.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) An equipment support stand adapted to be used on an underground mining machine which includes at least one apparatus thereon which will utilize a plurality of interchangeable items, said stand comprising:

a base adapted to stand on a surface of said machine adjacent to said apparatus;

an upstanding rack mounted to said base, the rack being shaped and configured to hold and/or support said items; and

securing means for releasably securing said base to said surface;

said securing means comprising a plurality of clamps which incorporate a hook formation adapted to pass through an aperture in said surface of said machine and hook beneath said surface to thereby rigidly fix the support stand to the surface, wherein said hook formation is tensionable by an over center locking lever connected thereto which, when tensioned, will tightly clamp the stand to the surface.

14-18 (canceled)